

JUL 12 1951

General J. Lawton Collins
Chief of Staff
United States Army
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General Collins:

The content of this letter is of such urgency that I am asking Bill Wyman to hand carry this communication to you.

As you know, the authorization up to June 30 of military personnel to CIA is far from filled. Actually we are [] short of our officer and enlisted man quota. In addition, the increasing responsibilities of CIA [] are of such nature that there will be needs over and above the June 30 requirement. If we are to carry out the national peacetime requirements some means must be used to expedite the acquisition of appropriate personnel in this field.

Since I understand you are immediately inactivating your ranger companies for absorption into standard units, it seemed to me that the personnel of the ranger units could well provide a source from which our immediate requirements could be partially alleviated. Since it is generally understood that [] units will come under command of theater commanders in time of war, our use of these specially trained people would not in the long run detract from the assets of the Army itself.

For these reasons I'm going to ask if you will permit me to send recruiting teams to Fort Benning and Camp Carson with the view to securing some likely volunteers from the officer and non-commissioned officer type for CIA assignment.

Since it is understood that the personnel from the 28th and 43rd divisions were to be returned to those divisions upon completion of their training, I would of course agree to clearing any assignments of such personnel to CIA with the division commander concerned.

It would also assist a great deal if you would cable General Handy indicating that you are releasing an agreed percentage of ranger personnel to CIA requesting that he authorize our representative in Europe to recruit from the companies that are being inactivated over there.

Official

If you would agree to this action authorizing us to recruit say up to 25 per cent of this personnel, it would be of great assistance to the projects we are undertaking in our common effort.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Walter B. Smith
Director

OSO:WGW:rm 12 July 51

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